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### WCRO Fall 1998

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#### Recommended Citation

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THE HUMANE SOCIETY of the UNITED STATES

# REGIONAL


West Coast Regional Office • Serving California, Nevada,  
Oregon, and Washington

# News!

Fall 1998

## Vote "Yes" on Proposition 4 and Proposition 6 in California

### You Can Help Ban Leghold Traps and Horse Slaughter Through the Ballot Box

 California voters will determine the fate of two momentous animal protection issues when they cast their ballots on November 3, 1998. The first measure, Proposition 4, will protect wildlife and companion animals by banning cruel and indiscriminate traps—including the steel-jaw leghold trap—for recreation or the fur trade. It

also ban two especially dangerous poisons that are deadly to animals and harmful to the environment. The measure allows exceptions to protect public health and safety, resolve human-animal conflicts, and protect threatened and endangered species.

Sponsored by Protect Pets and Wildlife (ProPAW), a coalition of seven major animal-protection organizations including The HSUS, the initiative qualified for the statewide ballot after nearly three-quarters of a million voters signed petitions, many of which were circulated by HSUS supporters.

Specifically, a "yes" vote on Proposition 4 will mean the steel-jaw leghold trap will be completely banned in California (as it has been in several other states and more than 80 countries), as well as the sale of any pelt from an animal caught in a body-gripping trap. Trappers will no longer be able to use any body-gripping trap (legholds, snares, or conibears) for sport or commercial trade. Last year, more than 24,000 wild animals, including bobcats, foxes, and beavers, were trapped with such devices to be skinned for the dying fur trade. It is not known how many non-target animals such as cats, dogs, and birds are harmed by these devices each year. Snares and conibear traps will remain legal for "nuisance" and predator control trapping only.

In addition, the measure will ban two particularly



dangerous poisons: sodium fluoroacetate (also known as Compound 1080), and sodium cyanide. Used primarily to kill coyotes, these indiscriminate poisons also kill foxes, bobcats, raccoons, dogs, bears, and other creatures. Although the Environmental Protection Agency banned Compound 1080 in 1972, it became legal to use again in California in 1996. Compound 1080 is known to cause immense and prolonged suffering by animals who ingest it. Sodium cyanide is commonly used in conjunction with M-44s or

"coyote getters," spring-loaded devices that discharge the poison into the mouth of animal victims, causing a violent death.


Voters in three states have approved similar initiatives in recent years—Arizona, Colorado, and Massachusetts. Volunteers can play a vital role in the ProPAW campaign by setting up "Vote Yes" information tables, conducting voter registration, writing letters to the editor, and helping with other forms of outreach. To get involved, contact the campaign's headquarters at: ProPAW, 1388 Westwood Blvd., #201, Los Angeles, CA 90024; (310) 441-4499. Send E-mail to: [propaw@ix.netcom.com](mailto:propaw@ix.netcom.com).

### End the Slaughter of Horses for Human Consumption

Sponsored by the California Equine Council and other organizations, the second proposal, Proposition 6, outlaws the slaughter of horses and the sale of horse meat for human consumption. With more than 489,000 valid voter signatures submitted, the measure easily qualified for the November ballot.

*continued on page 2*

Make This Holiday Season Fur Free

 This winter, help kick off The HSUS's Fur-Free 2000 campaign by making this holiday season fur free. There are beautiful and stylish alternatives to fur, as designer Oleg Cassini knows. He has donated artwork to the campaign that will appear in telephone kiosks and on billboards and holiday cards with the message that even Santa wants a fur-free holiday! We need you to make the first major event of the campaign a success.

The HSUS has already asked sponsors to create fur-free floats to roll down New York's Fifth Avenue for the first annual fur-free Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Here's how you can help:

Write a letter to Harold Kahn, President and CEO, Macy's East, 17th Floor, 151 W. 34th St., New York, NY 10001; send us a copy (HSUS, Dept. FR, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037).


We'll make a presentation of letters that Macy's won't soon forget! Include the following points in your letter:

- More than 30 million minks, foxes, chinchillas, and sables each year are bred and raised in cages for use by the fashion industry.
- Cage-raised animals are particularly susceptible to disease and often suffer stereotypical obsessive-compulsive behavior such as pacing, self-mutilation, and cannibalism.
- Millions of beavers, bobcats, foxes, raccoons, otters, coyotes, lynx, and other wild animals are trapped for their fur.
- Ask Macy's not to carry fur and fur-trimmed items in its stores.




art by Barbara Kiwak

First Strike Goes to Oregon

 In June, the Portland Campus of Linfield College was the site of a course on animal cruelty and human violence. Sponsored by The HSUS, the Oregon Humane Society (OHS), the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing, the Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center, the Good Samaritan Foundation, and Animal School, Inc., the course was attended by more than 170 nurses, humane agents, police, animal control officers, and representatives from allied professions.



City of Los Angeles to Host First Strike Course

 The City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation will host a course on animal cruelty and human violence on October 26, 1998. The HSUS course has been certified by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. In addition, the San Francisco Child Abuse Council has arranged to grant seven credit hours toward meeting the continuing education requirement for licensed clinical social workers and marriage, family, and child counselors.

*"Vote," continued from page 1*




Horses often suffer terribly when they are transported and sold for slaughter. Vote this November to end the slaughter of horses for human consumption in California.

The measure would recognize horses as an important part of California's heritage that deserves protection. It is estimated that as many as 10,000 of the more than 100,000 horses slaughtered each year nationwide come from California. Although there is virtually no market for horse meat in the United States, the animals, many of whom are former pets, are slaughtered to provide gourmet meat to foreign markets in such countries as France, Belgium, Italy, and Japan.

Horses destined for slaughter frequently must endure overcrowded, horrendous conditions before being slaughtered and are often transported over long distances without food or water in trailers designed for cattle.

Welcome to New Staff


 Cynthia Cutler (right) has joined the WCRO team as program coordinator. Cutler had worked as a veterinary technician and scientific aide for the California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response, where she rehabilitated wildlife affected by oil spills and other disasters. Cynthia worked closely with The HSUS's disaster response team during the 1997 floods in Yuba County.

• John Dommers will be working out of San Diego and will assist with special HSUS projects, workshops, and educational efforts throughout the region. Formerly the director of The HSUS's Animal Care Expos, Dommers has worked for The HSUS since 1972, serving as director of the National Association for the Advancement of Humane and Environmental Education and director for The HSUS New England Regional Office.



HSUS


California Officially Recognizes Needs of Animals in Disasters

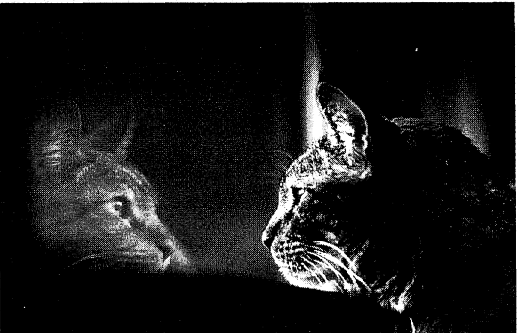
 Following the Great Floods of '97 and this year's fierce storms and floods associated with the El Niño phenomenon, California is moving forward to recognize the needs of animals during emergencies under its state emergency plan.

Working in cooperation with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and under the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the Committee for Animal Care in Disasters has been meeting regularly since the beginning of the year to work on the draft plan for the California Animal Response in Emergencies System (CARES). Modeled after the Florida disaster plan for animals, the plan establishes the system's working structure and describes how the CDFA is to coordinate the response of state agencies in assisting local and volunteer organizations in providing animals affected by a disaster with evacuation, rescue, emergency medical care, and shelter until they can be reunited with their owners. CDFA will be the primary state agency to implement CARES. The program would be activated at the request of the OES when local resources appear to be insufficient.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for everyone who cares about animals," said WCRO Director Eric Sakach, who serves as a member of the committee. "It is a goal of The HSUS to see animals included in every local and state emergency plan." The plan is expected to be finalized by the end of 1999.

Illegal Animal Fighting Subject of 1998 Humane Officers' Academy Course

 West Valley College in Saratoga and the Marin Humane Society in Novato, California, were sites for two training academies for humane officers earlier this year. WCRO Director Eric Sakach was a guest instructor for both academies, in which he presented day-long courses on the investigation of illegal animal fighting ventures. In addition to receiving copies of The HSUS' new law enforcement manual on the topic, officers were briefed on newly enacted legislation covering the seizure and disposition of fighting animals. The academies were sponsored by the State Humane Association of California.



Carol Guzy

Reflect for a moment...

*How can I help animals and receive income and tax savings at the same time?*

By making a planned gift to The Humane Society of the United States, you can assure that animals will receive the protection they need while providing significant tax savings and income to yourself. Naming The HSUS as a beneficiary of your estate or trust demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for future tasks. We will be happy to send our latest information on planned giving and our programs to help animals.

Mail this coupon in the envelope enclosed or send it directly to The Humane Society of the United States, WCRO, P.O. Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841-7220.

Name \_\_\_\_\_


Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Penalties for Bear Poachers Stiffened in California

 S.B. 1143, by Sen. Byron Sher, a longtime friend and advocate for animal and environmental issues, was signed by Gov. Pete Wilson in May. S.B. 1143 sets a minimum fine for selling illegal bear parts at \$250 for each part sold with a maximum fine of \$5,000, and increases the penalties for possessing more than three gallbladders to \$10,000.

Originally introduced by Sher as an attempt to end trapping and hounding, S.B. 1143 met with intense opposition from hunters, trappers, and houndsmen. Failing to muster the necessary votes to move it out of committee, Sher and the sponsors of the bill, including The HSUS, agreed that the Legislature was too influenced by special-interest groups to pass the bill in its original form. The sponsors agreed that placing the issue before the voters as a ballot initiative would give it a better chance of passing. Sher then decided to amend his bill to increase protection for bears from poaching.

Sport hunters legally kill approximately 1,000 black bears in the U.S. and Canada each year. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service experts believe that another 40,000 may be killed illegally. Bear gallbladders and other parts such as paws enter the illegal trade either when bears are poached or when they are legally hunted and their parts are sold. Those who trade in bear


parts seek out bear gallbladders and bear paws. They have a variety of sources from which they may procure their illegal gallbladders, including taxidermists and hunting guides. Hunters or suppliers typically receive around \$50 for a bear gallbladder. The value of bear parts rises as they are passed among middlemen, and can reach thousands of dollars in markets in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, and China, where the parts are highly sought after as folk remedies.

California officials have told HSUS investigators that bear poaching is "widespread" in California and that bears are poached specifically for their gallbladders. The international trade in bear parts is one facet of the global illegal traffic in wildlife, which is estimated by Interpol to be worth \$6 billion annually, with profit margins second only to those of the drug trade. In the cruel calculus of black marketers, bears are worth more dead than alive. The new law should reduce the incentive of those who trade in bear parts.



*Thanks to legislation proposed by Sen. Byron Sher, those who attempt to sell illegal bear body parts in California will now face tougher penalties. It is hoped that stiffer fines will deter hunters from poaching bears.*

## WCRO Attends the National Conference of State Legislators

 In July, WCRO's Geoff Simmons, along with HSUS staff, manned a booth at the National Conference of State Legislators held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The conference, attended by more than 5,000 state legislators; senior level legislative staff; state and federal agency personnel; and government relations managers from corporations, associations, and special-interest groups provided the HSUS with an outstanding opportunity to meet with key lawmakers and their staffs to promote animal welfare issues. Legislators were interested in a number of HSUS programs including our First Strike campaign, which links domestic violence and animal abuse. "Without question," said Simmons, "the conference gave us an unequalled opportunity to meet with and discuss the humane ethic with hundreds of interested legislators and their staffs."

Approximately 195,000 pieces of legislation are introduced biennially at the state level. Of those, 45,000 become law. Sadly, many good animal bills fall into the category of those that are never signed into law. Despite repeated efforts by The HSUS and other animal welfare organizations, those who would abuse or otherwise use animals for profit and gain still hold sway in most of our state capitols. However, The HSUS is committed to strengthening laws that protect our nation's animals, and seeking protections based on reason rather than money or influence peddling.

## Legislative Update

Following is an update on legislative activity and a listing of bills that need your support. HSUS staff are constantly in contact with state legislative offices and local activists to assist in passage of humane legislation and to stop bills considered inhumane. We cannot guarantee that The HSUS position on the bills will remain as reported here, as bills may be unfavorably amended. Nevada and Oregon are not in session during 1998, and Washington's Legislature has recessed for the year. For up-to-the-minute information and to learn how you can become more involved in your state's legislative process, write or call WCRO at (916) 344-1710.

### California

■ A.B. 68, by Assemblywoman Valerie Brown, would have repealed the 45-year-old Attorney General's opinion that pets adopted or sold through animal shelters are taxable. Currently, taxes are assessed on any fee associated with adopting a pet including: donations, spay/neuter deposits, health exams, microchipping, disease testing, and deworming. This bill, initiated by the Board of Equalization and The HSUS, was defeated in committee.

■ A.B. 1635, by Assemblywoman Carol Migden, will require traveling circuses and carnivals to notify local animal control agencies 14 days before the first performance in their jurisdiction. This bill will also require those shows to provide the animal control agency with an itinerary of future shows so that complaints of cruelty or neglect may be followed up on by other animal control officers in jurisdictions where the show is traveling. *HSUS position: Support*

■ A.B. 1856, by Assemblyman Ed Vincent, will require animal shelters and breed-rescue organizations that operate in counties with a population in excess of 100,000 to spay or neuter dogs and cats before adoption. In counties with less than 100,000 residents, this bill will require shelters to collect a deposit of not less than \$40 and not to exceed \$250.

*HSUS position: Support*

■ A.B. 2020, by Assemblywoman Helen Thompson, will allow condominium owners who are 60 years of age or older and the disabled to own a pet as long as they agree to abide by reasonable rules. *HSUS position: Support*

■ S.B. 1785, by Sen. Tom Hayden, addresses holding periods for strays in shelters. We support the bill in concept; however, we are concerned with several provisions. *HSUS position: Oppose unless amended*

■ S.B. 1991, by Sen. Jack O'Connell, will require persons convicted of animal abuse to undergo a psychological evaluation, and, if the court deems it necessary, order the offender to pay for and complete counseling designed to evaluate and treat behavior or conduct disorders. The bill specifies that counseling is not an alternative to jail. *HSUS position: Support*

■ S.B. 2102, by Sen. Herschel Rosenthal, would have redefined the definition of a "dog and cat breeder" under the Pet Breeder Warranty Act to include anyone who sells or gives away one or more litters in a 24-month period. *Status: Killed in committee*

■ S.B. 1659, by Sen. Quentin Kopp, bans the use of carbon monoxide chambers for euthanasia of unwanted dogs and cats. *HSUS position: Support*

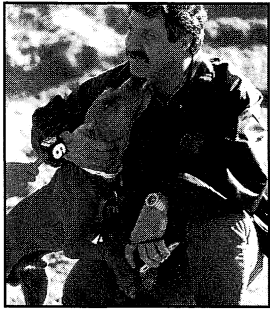


*Circus elephants often suffer from being chained and isolated from others when they aren't being made to perform.*

**Plan To Meet Us  
in Orlando, Florida,  
February 24-27,  
1999 for ...**




# Director's Report.....



**By Eric Sakach,  
Director of  
The HSUS  
West Coast  
Regional  
Office**

## Shooting Birds for "Fun" and Profit

 Hegins, Pennsylvania, may be the site of the nation's most notorious pigeon shoot, but it isn't the only place such cruel events take place. Large pigeon shoots that result in suffering and death for many thousands of birds take place right here in California.

In mid-May, despite protests by The HSUS and other animal protection organizations, a four-day pigeon shoot was held in Sierra County on the outskirts of the quaint town of Truckee, California, about 15 miles north of Reno, Nevada. Over the course of the event, as many as 18,000 pigeons trucked in for the event were blasted out of the sky by wealthy shooters competing for tens of thousands of dollars in cash and prizes. More than 350 contestants paid to compete in the event.

An announcement advertising The Champion Flyers Nevada Spring Flyer Championship stated that the contest was jointly hosted by Jim Champion of El Sobrante, California, and the Silver Legacy Casino Resort. However, a spokesman for the Silver Legacy stated that the resort was only renting rooms to the participants in the pigeon shoot, and that the casino was neither an official host nor directly involved in the event. Further, the casino would not be associated with pigeon shoots in the future.

The birds used for this cruel event are believed to come from pest control services that

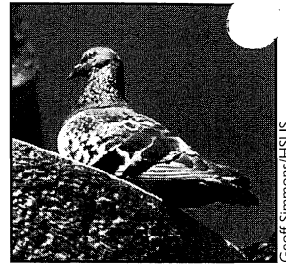
trap "nuisance" pigeons in cities. Information received by The HSUS indicated the birds were trucked in from the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas. WCRO Program Coordinator Cynthia Cutler contacted the California Department of Fish and Game and was advised that pigeons are a species "not naturally occurring in California" and are therefore exempt from hunting regulations.

According to sources, each contestant paid a fee to enter the contest and then paid an additional amount to buy into a round in which the object was to shoot five birds. Contestants who shot the most birds were awarded points, with the prize money being divided among the first-, second-, and third-place finishers. Practice birds could be purchased for \$6 each. Reportedly, teenagers were employed to remove dead birds and to wring the necks of wounded birds. It was estimated that only about 800 birds escaped the blood bath.

If I understand anything, it's that live birds aren't necessary to hold a competitive shooting event. Clay targets could easily have been used, and no birds would have been wounded or killed.

Most parents, I believe, would be horrified if they learned that their children were spending time with people who delighted in killing animals for fun or that their children were actually participating in the killing. Most, I would hope, would be concerned enough to consider psychological evaluation and intervention for their children. It's hard for me to even grasp how something as morally offensive as thrill killing somehow becomes acceptable when sanctioned by so-called adults. Something is seriously awry in any society in which killing sentient creatures for amusement is condoned. In light of what we know about the connection between animal cruelty and human violence, the very idea of using teens to finish off dying birds is particularly disturbing.

Our office will be seeking legislation to prevent future pigeon shoots.



Geoff Simmons/HSUS

*Pigeons believed to have been trapped and removed as "nuisance" birds in cities met with a cruel fate near Truckee, California.*

## Contacting WCRO.....

Write: HSUS West Coast  
Regional Office  
P.O. Box 417220  
Sacramento, CA 95841-7220  
Call: (916) 344-1710  
Fax: (916) 344-1808

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